

## TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1928

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### MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to promote student discussion and bolster the IIT community by providing a newspaper that is highly accessible, a stalwart of journalistic integrity, and a student forum. TechNews is a dedicated to the belief that a strong campus newspaper is essential to a strong campus community.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

TechNews is written, managed, and edited by the students of, and funded in part by, Illinois Institute of Technology. The material herein does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Illinois Institute of Technology or the editors, staff, and advisor of TechNews. There will be no censorship of TechNews publication by the faculty or staff of IIT. Sole authority and responsibility for publication and adherence to the values set forth in this policy rests with the TechNews staff. This paper seeks to bring together the various segments of the Illinois Tech community and strives through balance and content to achieve a position of respect and excellence. TechNews strives for professionalism with due respect to the intellectual values of the university and its community. All material submitted becomes the property of TechNews, and is subject to any editorial decisions deemed necessary.

### SUBMISSIONS

TechNews is published on the Tuesday of each week of the academic year. Deadline for all submissions and announcements is 11:59 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. Articles, photos, and illustrations must be submitted electronically to the TechNews website at technewsit.com.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

The editors reserve the right to determine if submitted material meets TechNews' policy and standards. For more information about our editorial standards, please email assteditor@technewsit.com.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor may be submitted by anyone, but are subject to review by the Editor-in-Chief. All letters-to-the-editor become the property of TechNews upon submission. TechNews does not accept or publish anonymous letters or stories.

### ADVERTISING

Legitimate paid advertisements, from within or outside the IIT community, which serve to produce income for the paper, are accommodated. TechNews holds the right to deny any advertisement unsuitable for publication. Media Kits are available upon request. Ad space is limited and is taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact the Business Manager at business@technewsit.com for more information.

### LOCAL & NATIONAL ADVERTISERS

To place an ad, contact us via email at business@technewsit.com.

# Give thanks to IIT institutions

**Shireen Gul**  
COPY EDITOR

Another academic year is about to end and we have been blessed with so many new friends, new events, new professors, new mentors, new summer internships, some were lucky to get new jobs and the luckiest one got their degree.

This is the perfect time to reflect over your academic year and count the blessings. This is the time when we can see our failures as another chance to learn and our successes as another chance to prove ourselves. This is the time when you should thank your mentors, friends, professors and family for their outmost concern through the journey.

I know all of us are getting crazy as our finals week is almost here and we have so much to do. You might be thinking "who has time to do this?" but trust me it won't take more than 10 minutes. All you have to do is that when you need a break from your

studies, you can write a thank you note for someone who helped you to come through this academic year. It could be anyone; it can be the person at Global Grounds who made a coffee for you that helped you stay awake during your lecture, it can be the lady at The Commons counter who welcomed you with a smiling face when you had a bad day, it could be your professor who gave you another chance to do an assignment in which you didn't score well, or it can even be the library, which is open 24/7 for us so we can survive through our finals.

This will not only make them feel better, but will also make you feel better because you did something good, not for your sake, but for others.

These days, our lives have become so busy and cruel that we usually forget to thank people around us, and, above all, we forget to thank God for his utmost blessings over us. Everyone around us is going through some hard time and your one thank

you note might make their day and if you thank God for his blessings, then you might feel more satisfied than you felt ever before.

Apart from this, you might want to thank the Office of Campus Life, Union Board, and the Student Center for Diversity and Inclusion for arranging so many awesome and fun events on campus, for letting us take out some time from our busy lives and enjoy them for a moment, and for our most favorite thing, free food.

Last but not least, you might want to thank our awesome student newspaper organization TechNews for bringing the best and latest news on campus and making sure that our voices are being heard.

If you want to thank anyone and need some help in that then please feel free to send an email to scdi@iit.edu and we will get back to you with some awesome ideas as soon as possible. In the end, best of luck on your finals and I am sure we will rock it.

## Tales from the Victory Lap:

# First-generation graduates face different challenges

**William Syvongsa & Miriam Schmid**  
TECHNEWS WRITERS

Being a first generation college student is a challenge that is often overlooked in higher education. However, before we graduate, we would like to share a little about our stories, our journeys, and our challenges as first-generation college students.

Will: As I'm helping my brother traverse his college admission process, I was reminded of how difficult the process is. You have to narrow a list of colleges down, you have to pick a major, you have to apply for financial aid, you have to figure out where you are going to live, you have to figure out if you will need a job during college, you have to pick classes, and the list continues. My brother is fortunate he can ask me for help; I didn't have much support from my parents. It's not that my parents didn't care, they did. The language barrier became a huge hurdle that we all had to overcome together. I felt like I was playing a game of telephone: interpret this e-mail and explain to my parents in their language what I needed from them. This experience

helped me grow a lot, so I have to actively remind myself to not do everything for my brother so that he can learn as well.

Miriam: When I receive my diploma on May 17, I will become the first member of my family to obtain a Bachelor's degree. Actually, my younger brother will also be receiving a Bachelor's in Physics from UIUC on the same day, so I suppose I have to share that distinction. Regardless, as a first-generation college student, the road to graduation at IIT has been challenging, confusing, and rewarding.

Because neither of my parents pursued a college education (in fact, my father did not graduate from high school), they do not support my decision to pursue college. So in addition to navigating the college system, I had to find ways to financially support myself at IIT. Finding loans, applying for scholarships, and paying for housing was a constant concern every semester. While this has been a huge challenge opportunities like working on campus, becoming an RA, and the Leadership Academy Scholarship have helped ease the financial stress.

As graduation nears and I con-

tinue my job search, I wish more than anything that my parents understood what I am currently experiencing.

The emotional support and advice that classmates' parents are providing during the job searching process reminds me that I am navigating uncharted waters for my family.

As I hear friends talk to parents about moving to new cities, accepting job offers, and finding new places to live, I wish more than anything that my parents could provide me their advice and experiences on graduating from college.

As a freshman, I had no understanding of what college would be like. I had no idea how I was going to make it through to graduation. All I knew was that I had an awesome opportunity, and I was going to take advantage of every opportunity.

As my younger siblings enter college, I know have so many experiences and pieces of advice to share with them. When they graduate from college, I will be there to lend an ear, offer advice, and support them as they join the new generation of my family with college educations.

# Lack of Public Safety assistance a disappointment to students

**Shireen Gul**  
COPY EDITOR

It has been quite a while since I have started to live on campus and have been hearing about many incidents that are taking place near campus. I have always been one of those people who would avoid going out late at night, especially since having moved to Chicago; I avoid moving around campus after sunset.

After spending a few months here, one of my friends suggested that I should ask Public Safety to escort me back to MSV during late hours. I felt this was a good idea since they are here to protect us, and that's what public safety is for. But on the contrary, I was so wrong.

I am not a person who complains a lot, particularly with the administration and authorities because most of the time they help us as much as they can. But this particular incident really bothered me, and prompted me to speak up and bring it to everyone's notice.

It was last weekend when we had a party at The Bog and few of my friends were visiting. They live at Lake Meadows, not far from campus. Before moving ahead, let me

mention that these friends are also IIT students but have avoided parties at The Bog because they feared to walk back alone during late hours. I suggested that they come to this party and ask public safety to drop us back home.

They came to The Bog and enjoyed the party and soon it was time to go back home. Since we organized the party, we had to remove all the decorations and then leave. After that was done, at around 2 a.m., we called Public Safety for a ride back home. They didn't attend the call. Later, when they did, they said that they had only one car, which was currently at Crown Hall due to some issue. When asked when they will become available, they replied saying maybe an hour. We told them that we were four girls and couldn't go back alone, asking them to try and do something, but he only had the same answer. After waiting for 30 minutes, we called them again and we got the same reply.

I asked them why he was saying that there was only one car available when there are actually many cars for Public Safety. The officer had no answer for this and we hung up the call. We ended up waking up some of our guy friends and asked them to

walk us home.

Now, my question is very simple and straightforward. What is Public Safety doing here on campus? I understand they are here to protect us and many times they have proved that. Nowadays, whenever I or a few of my friends call them they just give excuses. I understand sometimes we all have bad days, but it's not always. What if something would have happened to us the other night? Who would be responsible for this? Ourselves, IIT, or Public Safety? These parties on campus are arranged for us to attend them, but this is what we get in reply when we come out of our studios schedule.

I have always been reading complaints about Public Safety on the IIT undergraduate page on Facebook and I never wrote any. But now I think I should have not waited for my turn to come out and speak. This is a humble request to IIT and especially to Public Safety to please escort us during late hours. We are here to study and our parents depend on you all to help us when we ask for it. Everyone's life is precious and Public Safety should know better about the crime rate here and should be helping students.